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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Tomoyuki NOGUCHI et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/598,437 (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2005/003186) Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

I.A. Filed : February 25, 2005 Confirmation No. : 9405

For : FIXING DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner the following information.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with respect to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2005/003186, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. A copy of the International Search Report has been filed concurrently with the present application and should thus have been brought to the attention of the Examiner.

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-295644 A; and
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-270982 A.

The relevance of the documents cited in the International Search Report, as ascertained with respect to the International claims by the International Examiner, is set forth in the International Search Report.

Applicants further bring to the attention of the Examiner the following documents:

- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-203072 A, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited beginning at page 3 of the specification of the above-captioned application;
- (4) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0201768;
- (5) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0199613; and
- (6) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0041991.

Since the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is assumed to have received the International Search Report and the documents cited therein from the International Bureau, and the Examiner is assumed to have considered these documents in accordance with M.P.E.P. 609.03 and 1893.03(g), copies of these documents, i.e., above-noted documents (1) and (2), are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

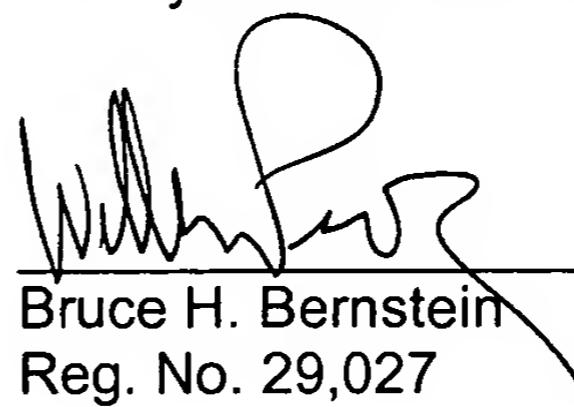
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. A copy of above-noted document (1), including the noted English

language Abstract, is attached hereto, and all of the above-noted documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Tomoyuki NOGUCHI et al.



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DEC 07 2006

A circular stamp with a double-line border. The outer ring contains the text "U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" in a stylized, all-caps font. The inner circle contains the date "DEC 07 2006" in a bold, sans-serif font.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Atty. Docket No.
P30600

Application No.
10/598,437

Applicant
Tomoyuki NOGUCHI et al.

Filing Date
February 25, 2005

Group
Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

1	English Language Abstract of JP 2001-203072.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

***EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.